

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11
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DRAFTED BY IO/UNESCO:CWARVARIV:JPLORENZ:SJR
APPROVED BY IO:GHELMAN
NEA/IAI - WBSMITH (DRAFT)
EUR:JEGOODBY (SUB)

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O 050016Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BERN IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY VIENNA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 114521

VIENNA FOR MAYNES; KINGSTON CARE OF AMBASSADOR FOR DALLEY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNESCO, XF, IS

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SUBJECT: UNESCO EXECUTIVE BOARD: ITEM CONCERNING ISRAELI
OCCUPIED TERRITORIES
PARIS ALSO PASS UNESCO FOR INFO

1. SUMMARY. UNESCO EXECUTIVE BOARD, WHICH IS NOW IN
SESSION IN PARIS, HAS ADDED ISRAELI OCCUPIED TERRITORIES
ISSUE TO LIST OF AGENDA ITEMS THAT REQUIRE ACTION BY THE

BOARD. THIS MOVE WAS MADE AT SYRIA'S REQUEST; IT IS NOW ABOUT TO BE FOLLOWED UP BY A SYRIAN-SPONSORED RESOLUTION WHICH WE ANTICIPATE WILL REFER IN SOME UNACCEPTABLE WAY TO THE REPORT OF THE UN PALESTINIAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE. UNLESS STRONG PREVENTIVE ACTION IS TAKEN BY THE US, WEST EUROPEANS, AND OTHERS, THERE IS A SERIOUS POSSIBILITY THAT UNESCO COULD BE FACED WITH ANOTHER DAMAGING POLITICAL BATTLE LIKE THAT OF 1974. THIS IN TURN COULD AGAIN CREATE A CRISIS IN US/UNESCO RELATIONS. WE ASK ACTION ADDRESSEES' URGENT ATTENTION TO, AND ASSISTANCE WITH, THIS PROBLEM. END SUMMARY.

2. PARA 9 OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S REPORT ON "RECENT DECISIONS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE UN SYSTEM OF RELEVANCE TO UNESCO" (DOCUMENT 104 EX/35) WAS ORIGINALLY SUBMITTED BY

THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR THE INFORMATION, RATHER THAN ACTION, OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD. THIS PARA REFERS TO UNGA RESOLUTION 32/40, ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE (AND RELATING PARTICULARLY TO PALESTINIAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE REPORT); 32/91 ON THE ISRAELI POLICIES AND PRACTICES IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES; AND 32/171 WHICH REQUESTED SYG TO PREPARE ANALYTICAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE ISRAELI OCCUPATION ON THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.

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3. BY MOVING THIS PARAGRAPH OF THE DG REPORT UP TO THE CATEGORY "FOR CONSIDERATION" BY THE BOARD THE PROPONENTS HAVE ACHIEVED THEIR OBJECTIVE OF HAVING A MORE COMPREHENSIVE DISCUSSION OF THE WHOLE COMPLEX OF ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUES. WHILE EXBD PROCEDURE PRECLUDES, IN THIS PARTICULAR INSTANCE, POSSIBILITY OF PREVENTING A BOARD MEMBER FROM "CONSIDERING" ANY ITEM IN THE DG'S REPORT ON UN DECISIONS, US AND BELGIAN EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS RESERVED THEIR POSITION ON THIS ITEM ON THE GROUND THAT PLACING THIS ITEM ON THE AGENDA WOULD ENGENDER FURTHER POLITICAL DISCUSSION OF THESE CONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTIONS. THEY ALSO ARGUED THAT SINCE A FACT-FINDING MISSION SENT BY THE DG TO THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES HAD NOT YET COMPLETED ITS REPORT, MOVING ITEM FOR OPEN DISCUSSION NOW WAS PREMATURE AND INADVISABLE. ITEM WAS NEVERTHELESS PUT ON THE BOARD'S AGENDA UNDER THE TITLE "UNESCO'S CO-OPERATION WITH THE COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE REPORT OF THE SYG OF THE UN ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE ISRAELI OCCUPATION."

4. WE HAVE NOW LEARNED THAT, IN ADDITION TO "CONSIDERA-

TION" OF THIS ITEM BY THE BOARD, THE ARABS WILL INTRODUCE A RESOLUTION PERTAINING TO THE PALESTINIAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE. AS OF THIS WRITING, DEPT. HAS NO TEXT OR INDICATION OF THE CONTENT OF ANY SUCH RESOLUTION.

5. WE ARE MOST CONCERNED THAT ANY RESOLUTION ON SUCH A COMPLEX AND CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE MAY TURN OUT TO BE EXTREMELY DAMAGING TO US/UNESCO RELATIONSHIP IN THE NEAR FUTURE. WE HAVE INSTRUCTED OUR AMBASSADOR TO UNESCO (TORRES) TO MEET WITH DG M'BOW AND TO CONVEY TO HIM: (I) OUR CONCERN OVER THE POTENTIAL POLITICAL REPERCUSSION OF ANY SUCH ARAB MOVE; (II) STRONG US OPPOSITION TO ANY MOVE TO SUBMIT ANY RESOLUTION IN CONNECTION WITH THIS AGENDA ITEM; (III) THAT SUBMISSION OF A RESOLUTION WHICH ATTEMPT-
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TED TO ENDORSE OR IMPLEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE, WHOSE ESTABLISHMENT AND ACTIVITIES ALL

WESTERN EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS (AS WELL AS US) OPPOSED, OR WHICH SOUGHT TO REWRITE OR AMEND DG'S REPORT IN ANY WAY, COULD SET OFF A STRONGLY ADVERSE REACTION IN U.S. CONGRESS TOWARD UNESCO AND MIGHT EVEN JEOPARDIZE SCHEDULED U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO THE ORGANIZATION; (IV) THAT INTRODUCTION OF SUCH A RESOLUTION COULD ALSO SERVE TO ENCOURAGE THE REVIVAL OF OBJECTIONABLE ISSUES AT THE 20TH GENERAL CONFERENCE (OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 1978), SUCH AS THE ATTEMPT TO REINSERT A REFERENCE TO UNGA RESOLUTION 3379 (EQUATING ZIONISM WITH RACISM) IN EITHER THE UNESCO DRAFT DECLARATION ON RACE AND RACISM OR THE DRAFT DECLARATION ON MASS MEDIA.

6. AMBASSADOR TORRES WILL URGE M'BOW, WEO'S AND AFRICAN MEMBERS OF THE BOARD (WHO TRADITIONALLY FOLLOW M'BOW'S ADVICE) TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO INSURE THAT THE DISCUSSION IS (A) LIMITED TO THE ITEMS MENTIONED IN DG'S REPORT (SEE PARA 2 ABOVE), (B) IS LOW KEY AND (C) ABOVE ALL THAT NO DAMAGING DECISION IS TAKEN ON THE ITEM ITSELF.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPT. WOULD APPRECIATE ACTION POSTS MEETING, ON AN URGENT BASIS, WITH HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AT HIGH POLITICAL LEVEL TO CONVEY U.S. PROFOUND CONCERN, BASED ON PARAS 1-6 ABOVE. YOU SHOULD URGE HOST GOVERNMENTS TO INSTRUCT THEIR RESPECTIVE BOARD MEMBERS (A) TO MAKE SIMILAR APPROACHES TO M'BOW AND (B) TO SUPPORT ACTIVELY U.S. MOVE TO OPPOSE ANY RESOLUTION THAT MAY HAVE POTENTIALLY DAMAGING EFFECT ON UNESCO.

8. PLEASE CABLE RESPONSES TO INFO POSTS INDICATED. CHRISTOPHER
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
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Enclosure: n/a
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Expiration:
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Litigation History:
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TAGS: PORG, MOPS, XF, IS, UNESCO
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Type: TE
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